

Amendments in the claims:

1. (previously presented) A polymer electrolyte membrane comprising a first polymer comprising acidic subunits and a second polymer comprising basic subunits, wherein the polymer electrolyte membrane further comprises an elastomeric polymer comprising elastomeric subunits, and wherein said basic subunits comprise vinylimidazole.
2. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said first polymer comprises sulfonic acid, phosphoric acid or carboxylic acid groups.
3. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 2 wherein said first polymer comprises sulfonated polyetherether ketone or sulfonated polyetherether sulfone.
4. (canceled)
5. (currently amended) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 14 wherein said second polymer comprises polyvinylimidazole.
6. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric polymer comprises a semi-interpenetrating network in said membrane.

7. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric polymer comprises polyacrylonitrile.

8. (currently amended) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said ~~elastomeric copolymer comprises an~~ elastomeric subunit comprises ~~comprising~~ acrylonitrile.

9. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said first polymer comprises sulfonated polyetherether ketone, and wherein said elastomeric subunits comprise acrylonitrile.

10. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said second polymer comprises polyvinylimidazole and wherein said acidic subunits comprise 2-acrylonamide-2-methyl-1 propane sulfonic acid and said elastomeric subunits comprise acrylonitrile.

11. (previously presented) A polymer electrolyte membrane comprising a first polymer comprising acidic subunits and a second polymer comprising basic subunits, wherein the polymer electrolyte membrane further comprises an elastomeric polymer comprising elastomeric subunits, wherein said membrane has an electrical conductivity greater than about 0.005 S/cm.

12. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said membrane is substantially impermeable to methanol.

13-34. (canceled)

35. (previously presented) A polymer electrolyte membrane comprising a first polymer comprising acidic subunits and a second polymer comprising basic subunits, wherein the polymer electrolyte membrane further comprises an elastomeric polymer comprising elastomeric subunits,

wherein said acidic subunits are selected from the group consisting of sulfonic acid groups,

wherein said elastomeric subunits are selected from the group consisting of nitrile groups.